

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, City of Waterbury, NVCOG Chair



Mayor Neil M. O'Leary joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1980, continuing a family tradition of public service. O'Leary rose through the ranks, becoming Chief of Police in 2004 and serving in that role until his retirement in 2009. In 2011, O'Leary successfully ran for Mayor of the City of Waterbury, taking office in December 2011.

Since then, Mayor O'Leary has focused on economic development, bringing more than 1,250 new jobs to Waterbury. His often repeated phrase is, "Waterbury is open for business." Mayor O'Leary's Economic Development team has brought a strong mix of retail, manufacturing, restaurant and professional services by highlighting Waterbury's skilled workforce that combines an old-fashioned New England work ethic with state-of-the-art training in the latest technology. The Economic Development team stresses to potential employers Waterbury's central location at the junctions of Route 8 and Interstate 84, halfway between Boston and New York, and its low cost of living. Mayor O'Leary serves as Vice-Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advanced

Manufacturing Task Force. He also serves as Chair of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

Mayor O'Leary was born in the City of Waterbury and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven.

James P. Redeker, Commissioner, State of Connecticut



James Redeker was named Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation by Governor Dannel P. Malloy on August 25, 2011. He is responsible for overseeing the statewide system of highway operations and maintenance, capital project design and construction, public transportation, and ports.

Mr. Redeker serves on the board of the Connecticut Airport Authority, which is responsible for Bradley International Airport and the five general aviation airports. He also serves on the board of the Capital Region Development Authority. Mr. Redeker chairs the Northeast Corridor Commission that has responsibility for the creation and implementation of a short-term and long-term, regional investment strategy for the Northeast Corridor. He also chairs the Standing Committee on Rail Transportation. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board.

Mr. Redeker joined CTDOT in 2009 after a 30-year career with NJ TRANSIT. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Science in 1977 and a Master's in Civil Engineering in 1980 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Tim Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner, CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development



Tim Sullivan joined the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in January 2014, and became Deputy Commissioner in January 2015. Tim oversees several key components of Governor Malloy's economic development strategy including tourism, brownfield redevelopment, transit oriented development, and waterfront initiatives. He also manages the state's "still revolutionary" branding effort, which raises awareness about Connecticut as a great place to visit and grow a business.

Prior to joining DECD, Tim served as Chief of Staff to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development during the administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. In that role, Tim focused on key areas of city policy including transportation and transit oriented development, brownfield redevelopment, waterfront and maritime/port redevelopment (serving as the citywide waterfront policy coordinator), public and affordable housing policy, small business support, infrastructure finance, and public/private partnerships. He began his career in investment banking at Lehman Brothers in 2003 as a healthcare banker, focusing on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions for leading companies in the managed care, biotechnology, and healthcare services sectors.

Tim is a graduate of Georgetown University and recently moved to Coventry, Connecticut.

Mark Nielsen, Director of Planning & Deputy Director, NVCOG



Mark Nielsen is the Director of Planning and Deputy Director for the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. In that position, Mark is responsible for implementing the NVCOG's regional, environmental, and transportation planning in addition to supporting its mission as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region and the Greater Bridgeport and Valley portions of the Bridgeport-Stamford urbanized area. He also collaborates with other regional organizations and MPOs in Connecticut and state and federal agencies.

Before joining the NVCOG, Mark worked for the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council as the Senior Transportation Planner, conducting that agency's regional transportation program, with a focus on assessment of highway operations, sustainable transportation options, and non-motorized transportation efforts.

Mark graduated from the University of Connecticut with a major in economics and a minor in urban studies and attended the University of Rhode Island for graduate studies in its Department of Community Planning and Development.

Laura Brown, Community & Economic Development Educator, UConn Extension



Laura Brown joined the University of Connecticut Department of Extension as an Associate Professor, Community & Economic Development Specialist in 2014 and has been a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) since 2013. Laura conducts applied research and educational programs that address asset based community and economic development, regionalism, place-making, and economic development readiness. Over the past fifteen years Laura has coordinated economic development, food systems, and community development education programs throughout New England and the Mid-West. Recent projects include partnership with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments to conduct an economic impact assessment of the future Naugatuck River Greenway trail and the launch of the Connecticut First Impressions Community Exchange Program in partnership with the CT Main Street Center.

Laura holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Communications from Clark University, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

David Fink, Former Policy Director, Partnership for Strong Communities



In January, David Fink formally retired from full-time employment with the Partnership for Strong Communities as its Policy Director. In this role, David was the staff director of HOMEConnecticut, a campaign charting solutions to the shortage of housing affordable to workers, young professionals, families, and others across the state. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee and the Connecticut General Assembly on how housing creation relates to transportation policy and community development, and has spoken at conferences and written extensively on developing community support and strategic communications. Prior to joining the Partnership in 2004, David spent 25 years as a newspaper reporter, editor and opinion writer for five newspapers, including USA Today, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Boston Herald-American, and The Hartford Courant, where he served as a legislative correspondent, government editor and associate editor of the editorial page.

David was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from the State University of New York with a B.A. in political science and received a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University. He and his wife, an attorney, live in West Hartford and have two children.

David Carol, Project Manager, JV Team, NEC FUTURE



David Carol serves as Parson Brinckerhoff's Market Leader High-Speed Rail (HSR) and Railroads. He is responsible for developing a long-term global strategy for participation in high-speed and other passenger rail and freight rail opportunities, as well as helping to advocate for and advance HSR in the United States. He is the Project Manager for NEC FUTURE, a program of the Federal Railroad Administration to create a long-term vision for the Washington-Boston Northeast Corridor and to plan for future travel demand. Mr. Carol has continuing roles on other HSR projects in California, Connecticut, and the Southeast.

Mr. Carol joined PB from the Charlotte Area Transit System, where he served as project manager for commuter rail and streetcar projects. Previously, he led implementation of Amtrak's \$2.5 billion Northeast Corridor HSR program that included developing and deploying Acela high-speed trains and upgrading Amtrak's Northeast Corridor to permit electrified service at speeds up to 150 mph.

Mr. Carol received his B.A. (magna cum laude) from Amherst College in 1977, and his J.D. and M.A. (Foreign Affairs) from the University of Virginia in 1981.

Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, State of Connecticut



Kevin Lembo was elected to a second four year term as Connecticut's State Comptroller in 2014 following 20 years of public service and advocacy. Lembo focuses on consensus building across party lines, continues to lead ongoing initiatives to establish government transparency and accountability, fiscal stability through an improved Budget Reserve Fund formula, better retirement savings options for all residents, and more affordable ultra-high speed Internet service for every business and household in the state.

Comptroller Lembo serves as the chief fiscal guardian reporting on the state's financial status every month to ensure that Connecticut proceeds on a secure financial track, coordinating health care and payroll for hundreds of thousands of public employees and retirees, and administering the statewide electronic accounting system. He has been hailed by advocacy groups and the media as a "champion of transparency" for his efforts to promote public access to vital state financial information. The Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information recognized Lembo's efforts toward open government with its Bice Clemow Award in 2013.

Lembo resides in Guilford with his spouse, Charles Frey; they have three sons.

Rick Dunne, Executive Director, NVCOG

Rick is the Executive Director of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) where he oversees administration of Regional Policy & Planning (Transportation, Conservation & Development, Environmental, Homeland Security), Brownfields Redevelopment, and Shared Municipal Service provision. He currently serves as the Chairman of the CT Association of Councils of Governments (CTCOG), the lead advocate for regional solutions to municipal issues and is Co-Director of the Greater Bridgeport / Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO).

Rick spent a decade as the Director of Development & Administration for the City of Derby, Connecticut where he administered the local HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, directed Fair Housing Activities, supervised municipal land use planning, and coordinated transportation activities with the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization. He previously worked as Policy Director for the Connecticut Legislature's Connecticut Institute of Municipal Studies (CIMS) where he supervised policy development and drafted legislation on issues ranging from Neighborhood Revitalization to Property Tax Relief. From 1989 to 1995 Rick held 3 different municipal offices over 8 successive elections.

Rick resides in Derby with his wife Diane and daughter Ali.

Mayor N. Warren “Pete” Hess, Borough of Naugatuck



Mayor N. Warren “Pete” Hess practiced law in Naugatuck from 1974 until he became Mayor of the Borough of Naugatuck in November 2015. The focus of his legal career was in real estate development, municipal law, environmental law, and related matters.

Pete was raised in Naugatuck and attended borough schools, graduating from Naugatuck High School. He began his legal career working for Waterbury attorney Michael J. Daly III. He also handled litigation for the Borough of Naugatuck and served as counsel to Regional School District No. 16.

Mayor Hess graduated with honors from Boston University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Thereafter, he attended the University of San Francisco School of Law where he graduated and was inducted into the McAuliffe Honor Society in 1973.

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy



Senator Christopher S. Murphy is the junior United States Senator for Connecticut. Elected in 2012, Murphy serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Democratic Steering & Outreach Committee.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Murphy served Connecticut’s Fifth Congressional District for three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Fifth District includes the towns of Danbury, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington, and Waterbury. During his three terms, Murphy served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Committee on Financial Services.

Before his service in the U.S. Congress, Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut General Assembly. He spent four years representing Southington and the 81st district in the House, and then spent four years representing the 16th Senatorial District, which includes the towns of Waterbury, Wolcott, Cheshire, and Southington.

Senator Murphy grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and attended Williams College. In 2002, he graduated from UConn Law School. On August 18, 2007, Murphy married Cathy Holahan, an attorney. They have two sons named Owen and Rider.

Joseph McGee, Vice President, Public Policy and Programs



Joseph J. McGee is Vice President of Public Policy and Programs at the Business Council of Fairfield County. Joe has worked extensively with the business community, civic organizations, and government officials in the areas of economic development, transportation, housing, energy conservation, environment, and tax and fiscal policy.

His community leadership roles reflect his commitment to these priorities. He is currently a member of the boards of The Housing Development Fund and The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters. This year, Joe was appointed to two statewide policy committees; he is serving on the Steering Committee of the Water Planning Council and was named co-chair of the newly established Connecticut Commission on Economic Competitiveness, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

Before joining The Business Council of Fairfield County, Joe was Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic Development, Chairman of the Connecticut Development Authority, and Chairman of Connecticut Innovations, Inc. from 1990-1994. He served as Vice President at People’s Bank between 1979 and 1990. Prior to joining People’s Bank, Joe served as Staff Director for Congressman Stewart McKinney in Washington, D.C. from 1971 to 1978.